

Wadleigh Memorial Library

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~ 2005 TRUSTEES REPORT ~

The Wadleigh Memorial Library experienced many changes in 2005.

People

It was a year of hellos and farewells. In June we wished Art Bryan well upon his retirement as Library Director. While it was difficult for us to say goodbye to Art, we were very fortunate to welcome Michelle Sampson to the position of Director in early September. We also said goodbye to Phyllis Baker as she left her position as Head of Technical Services this summer. Finally, in late December we bid farewell to Stephanie Minter as she stepped down from her position as Children's Librarian.

Library Systems and Building

We continued to replace older workstations throughout the Library with new state-of-the-art equipment, continuing a replacement program we've followed for a number of years. This allows us to continue to offer the citizens of Milford the up-to-date computer equipment they need to conduct research, surf the web, or simply enjoy many of the offerings found online today. As has been the case for some time, all available terminals are in use virtually every minute the library is open to the public.

The heavily worn front stairways received new flooring and new paint; they are quite respectable after many years of showing wear and tear. Routine maintenance on the exterior continued. The heating system, almost 20 years old, will shortly receive a new boiler to replace the existing unit, which is both cracking and leaking. When we do expand our building, the new boiler will continue to be utilized for the old space and a separate boiler to service the new space will be installed. The flat roof, which has plagued us for many years, was (we hope) temporarily repaired for the last time. A complete replacement of that 20-year-old roof is planned for 2006, upon approval of a warrant article to raise the required funds, which has been submitted by the Trustees.

Our new Library director has worked with our staff to rearrange some heavily used areas, thereby creating the feeling of a little more space in our building. Meeting room space continues to be at a premium, even with the addition of Thursday evening hours in the spring of 2005. These small measures allow us to continue to function well by maximizing usage of existing areas while we move forward with plans for expansion.

Programs and Services

The number of patrons using our Library services continued to climb and circulation was up more than 7% from the prior year. The summer reading programs for both children and adults enjoyed good success. The Acoustic Café is now in its seventh season and continues to attract a growing group of patrons and persons from surrounding communities with each show. An independent film program, introduced in May of 2004, is growing in popularity. A full calendar of events is always on tap at our library, including

book groups for all ages along with special programs for children, young adults, and adults.

Property

The 39 Nashua Street building continues to ease the space needs of the Town by housing departments that cannot fit into the limited space available in the Town Hall. The apartment building at 91 Nashua Street is still providing us with a good return on investment; as in prior years, we set that income aside for future Library expansion.

Conclusion

We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of our community by providing the fine service and programming the patrons of our Library have come to expect.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hardy, Chair

